CLAIMS

1. An image generating system which generates an image of an aggregate object formed by a plurality of elemental objects, the system comprising:

means which changes a state of an elemental object among the plurality of elemental objects in accordance with occurrence of an event;

state change propagation means which propagates the state change to another elemental object which belongs to the same aggregate object as the changed elemental object; and

image generation means which generates an image in accordance with a state of an elemental object.

2. The image generating system as defined in claim 1,

wherein in the image generation, at least one of shape, color, position, rotation angle, direction, moving direction and moving speed is changed in accordance with the state change of an elemental object.

3. The image generating system as defined in claim 1,

wherein the state change propagation means comprises:

state hold means which holds a state of an elemental object;

state monitor means which monitors a state of another elemental object belonging to the same aggregate object as the state-held elemental object; and

state change means which changes a state of an elemental object when a state of another elemental object which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object has changed.

4. The image generating system as defined in claim 3, wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means changes a state of an elemental object when a state of another elemental object which has a predetermined positional relationship with the elemental object has changed.

5. The image generating system as defined in claim 3, wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means determines at random whether or not a state of an elemental object is changed when a state of another elemental object which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object and belongs to the same aggregate object as the elemental object has changed.

6. The image generation system as defined in claim 3, wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means changes the state of the elemental object after a given time has elapsed from the state change of another elemental object.

7. The image generation system as defined in claim 3, wherein the state change means of the state change

propagation means changes a first state of an elemental object into a second state after a given time has elapsed.

8. The image generation system as defined in claim 1, wherein the state change propagation means is provided for each object.

9. The image generation system as defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of state change patterns are provided for the elemental objects, and an image of the changed elemental object is generated in accordance with a state change pattern selected from the plurality of state change patterns.

10. The image generation system as defined in claim 1, wherein the aggregate object is formed by assembling the elemental objects having different shapes without any gaps.

11. The image generation system as defined in claim 1, wherein an image of the aggregate object is generated as an image of a single object before the occurrence of an event, and the image is generated as an image of the aggregate object formed by a plurality of elemental objects after the occurrence of the event.

12. A computer-readable program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave, storing information for operating an image generation system which generates an image

of an aggregate object formed by a plurality of elemental objects, the program comprising information for implementing:

means which changes a state of an elemental object among the plurality of elemental objects in accordance with occurrence of an event;

state change propagation means which propagates the state change to another elemental object which belongs to the same aggregate object as the changed elemental object; and

image generation means which generates an image in accordance with a state of an elemental object.

13. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 12, further comprising:

information for implementing the image generation by changing at least one of shape, color, position, rotation angle, direction, moving direction and moving speed in accordance with the state change of an elemental object.

14. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 12, further comprising information for implementing in the state change propagation means:

state hold means which holds a state of an elemental object;

state monitor means which monitors a state of another elemental object belonging to the same aggregate object as the state-held elemental object; and

state change means which changes a state of an elemental object when a state of another elemental object which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object has changed.

15. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 14,

wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means changes a state of an elemental object when a state of another elemental object which has a predetermined positional relationship with the elemental object has changed.

16. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 14,

wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means determines at random whether or not a state of an elemental object is changed when a state of another elemental object which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object and belongs to the same aggregate object as the elemental object has changed.

17. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 14,

wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means changes the state of the elemental object after a given time has elapsed from the state change of another elemental object.

18. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 14,

wherein the state change means of the state change propagation means changes a first state of an elemental object into a second state after a given time has elapsed.

19. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 12, further comprising information for providing the state change propagation means for each object.

20. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 12, further comprising information for:

providing a plurality of state change patterns for the elemental objects; and

generating an image of the changed elemental object in accordance with a state change pattern selected from the plurality of state change patterns.

21. The program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave as defined in claim 12, further comprising information for forming the aggregate object by assembling the elemental objects having different shapes without any gaps.

22. The program embodied on an information storage medium or

in a carrier wave as defined in claim 12, further comprising information for:

generating an image of the aggregate object as an image of a single object before the occurrence of an event; and

generating the image as an image of the aggregate object formed by a plurality of elemental objects after the occurrence of the event.